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Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center

2009 Orientation Guide

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INTRODUCTION

The Kenai-Kodiak Area Office (KKAO) is located one and one half miles east of the "Y" in Soldotna at Mile 92.5 Sterling Highway. The 11.8 million acres administered by this office are diverse in terms of physical geography, forestation type, use, and economic value.

The Kenai Peninsula has diverse topography from flat to rolling to mountainous terrain. The Peninsula is bordered by the glaciated Kenai Mountains to the east and Cook Inlet on the west, north, and south. Kodiak and its adjoining islands are mostly mountainous, rugged country.

Due to the Peninsula's relatively mild climate, it is a popular place for Alaskans to settle, thus creating a lot of residential and industrial (mainly mercantile) expansion. Wildland/urban interface incidents are common in this area. The Peninsula is also a renowned sport fishing and recreational area, creating a large influx of summer tourists. This adds to the human-caused fire danger.

A total of 3.9 million acres are in either Critical or Full protection categories, thus emphasizing the relatively high economic value of the Kenai-Kodiak Area. Existing fuel types of beetle kill, snags, grass, and slash, will add to make fire fighting challenging, and extreme fire behaviors. Most of these Full or Critical areas are a shared mutual response with the local fire departments. Responsibility for any wildland fire belongs to the KKAO Area by State Statute, accenting the need for an efficient, cooperative relationship with all cooperators.

In addition to the wildfire suppression responsibilities in its jurisdiction, the KKAO manages a burn permit program in much of the Area. This program is administered by the prevention staff and is a free service that benefits landowners and Forestry alike. By monitoring the burning in the Area, it reduces the amount of false alarm call outs and hazardous burning situations. Burn permits are required from April 1st to August 31st by State Statute.

The new Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center (KIDC) has become operational this year and all fire dispatching for the USFS-Chugach NF and the State of Alaska Kenai- Kodiak area will be handled from here. It is planned to include the USFWL in the future.

WEATHER AND LOCAL INFLUENCES

Weather on the Peninsula ranges from a coastal maritime influence around Homer and Cook Inlet to a hotter, drier inland influence centered around the Sterling area.

Kodiak and the other islands have a predominant coastal maritime influence and generally receive enough rainfall in the summer to keep



Caribou Hills 2007

fire danger at a minimum. The greatest fire danger in Kodiak occurs in March and April, before green-up, due to the abundance of dead grass at the lower elevations.

FIRE CONSIDERATION, HISTORY AND PROTECTION LEVELS

Ownership: The majority of lands are owned/managed by the federal government, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Park Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. There are also regional native corporations and some scattered state and borough lands. Larger parcels of state land are part of the State Parks system. In Full and Critical protection areas there exists a lot of privately owned property.

Protection Levels in the Kenai-Kodiak Area:

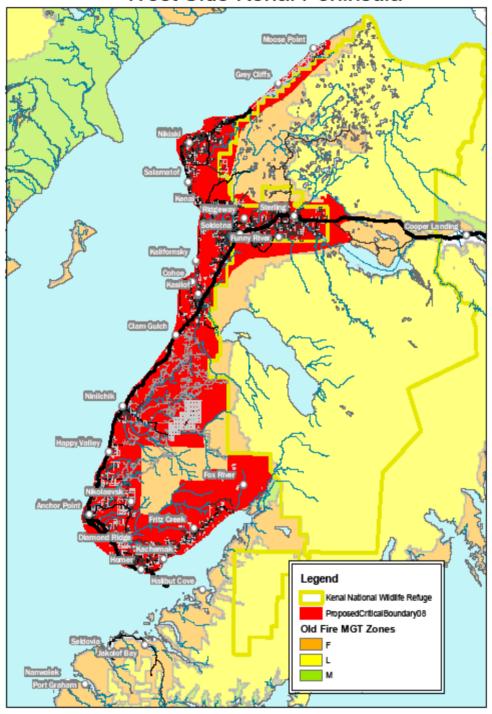
Critical 0.4 MM Acres
Full 3.5 MM Acres
Modified 1.8 MM Acres
Limited 6.1 MM Acres
TOTAL 11.8 MM Acres

Critical Sites: There are numerous critical sites throughout the Kenai-Kodiak area. These include residential and recreational homes, historic cabins archeological, cultural and industrial sites.

Occurrence and Frequency: The Area has had an average of 60 fires per year based on the period of 1992-2008. The years 1992, 1993, and 1996 each had over 100 fires. The highest acreage year was 2007 with 56,835 acres (56,254 acres at Caribou Hills). Other high acreage years include 2005, with 41,846 acres burned (25,180 acres at Fox Creek, 10,131 acres at King County Creek, and 5,400 acres at Tracy Avenue), 1996 with 28,217 acres burned, and 1997 with 14,247 acres burned.

Escaped controlled burns are the leading cause of wildfires on the Kenai, with campfires a close second. The primary reason for the fire escapements is the lack of an adequate mineral soil firebreak around the fire. Campfires are common due to the Area's high recreational use and become a wildfire risk when built in the prevalent peat or duff areas. Even with application of water, these fires are difficult to completely extinguish.

Draft Critical Fire Management Zone 2008 West Side Kenai Peninsula



New Critical Fire Management Zone to include all of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) identified in Community Wildfire Protection Planning Process (CWPP) on the East side of Kenai Peninsula.



Fire season in the Kenai-Kodiak Area usually begins in late March to mid-April. From late March to the end of May, the entire Area has the potential for fast moving grass fires. In early green-up is June, usually complete, and the problem fuel type becomes black spruce and stands of beetle kill spruce. The month of June is usually the and driest of hottest

summer. May and June are historically the busiest two months of the season for the Kenai-Kodiak Area. Late season (September) fires caused by moose and sheep hunters are also common in the Area

Cooperators: The Kenai-Kodiak Area and KIDC cooperates with several federal agencies on the Peninsula. The U.S. Forest Service and State Forestry have a mutual response area for initial attack of fires that begins on the south side of Turnagain Arm near Ingram Creek and follows the Seward Highway to Seward. This includes all of the Chugach NF West of the Seward Highway, in addition to small portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge from Upper Russian Lake NW to the NE shore of Skilak Lake and North to mile 63 of the Sterling Highway, then back East along the Sterling Highway to the USFS boundary. The Division of Forestry and Kenai Interagency Dispatch will assist the Forest Service on wildland fires within their jurisdiction; but outside of the mutual response area initial attack response will be at USFS request. The Kenai-Kodiak Area has entered into cooperative agreements with some 26 fire departments on the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island.

LOCAL PROCEDURES

Normal workdays are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 to 18:00 weekends, with a half-hour lunch break at 1:00 p.m. Engine checks and clean-up at 9-9:30, weather briefings are at 9:30, followed by shift briefing and crew assignments at 10:45 a.m.

All assigned personnel will perform a daily check of all fire vehicles and helitack first thing every morning. Fire readiness of the trucks and personal gear is a priority when we are into the fire season. Concurrently, technicians need to be aware of the local weather, fire behavior indices, and statewide tactical, resource availability. This information is posted on the bulletin board outside dispatch in the bay.



Kenai Interagency Dispatch Center will be staffed 7 days a week 8:00 to 18:00 through the fire season, and during any extended staffing KIDC will also extend.



Initial Attack

Engine assignments shall be made by the Suppression foreman for first and second out engines on a daily basis. All IA resources shall be dispatched either by direct contact or a siren as follows:

Engines only one blast Helitack only two blasts Both three blasts

Helitack Operations: KKA has an ERA Bell 212 helicopter 500EH on a 90 day contract from late April through late July with a primary mission of Initial Attack of fires. Cooperative agreements with the USFS (Seward District) expand usage of the helicopter for fires, prescribed burns, resource work, etc. The helicopter is also available for search and rescue missions in conjunction with the Troopers. State Troopers need to request the ship for those emergency situations and provide a trooper case number and name of trooper assigned to the case *prior to dispatching the helicopter*.

Response time for helitack is targeted at 7 minutes or less. Fire danger level will dictate the appropriate state of readiness.

Call when needed helicopters <u>maybe</u> available from: Pathfinder, and Maritime Helicopters both in Homer. Coastal Region has several



companies that may be able to provide helicopters; also, the Mat-Su or McGrath offices may have their Type 2 helicopters available for IA.

Commo -- The Area's helicopter has pre-programmed channels. When obtaining another helicopter to work in this Area, reprogramming of the VHF radio may be necessary. Complete frequency charts are available in dispatch.

TX/RX 159.270/151.265
132.45
128.45
121.50
168.625



Fuel: In Soldotna there is a 2000 gallon Jet A tank at the Forestry helibase and the KKA helitack has a chase truck with 110 gallons. Fuel is usually available commercially at the following locations, but call ahead to confirm:

Homer: Maritime Helicopters, Pathfinder's Aviation

Seward: Harbor Air

Kenai Lake (Lawing Field): USFS drum fuel

Kodiak: Maritime Helicopters, Andrew Airways

Kenai Airport Crowley Petroleum Services

Kenai Tanker Base

The Kenai Tanker Base is located on the northeast side of the Kenai Municipal Airport. Access to the Tanker Base is the next gate past Kenai Airport Fire Dept. on Willow Street. The lock combination for gate #20 and the trailer is 1213. There is a green trailer on the site that has flight hazard maps and local maps available. Keys for vehicles assigned to the site and a site information folder are located inside the trailer. Kenai FSS and the FAA tower are within walking distance to the site. 100 LL and jet fuel is available at Crowley Petroleum Services 283-4542. A 24 hr. credit card automated pumps are available.

Contacts for Tanker Base

Regional Aviation Manager Dennis Ricker	907-761-6229
Kenai Tanker Base – Lynn Baker	907-283-3816
Kenai Tanker Base Fax	907-283-3916
Soldotna Forestry Dispatch	907-260-4232



Kenai Tanker Base 2005

Radio Frequencies

Air to Ground 132.45 VHF-AM
Air to Air 128.45 VHF-AM
Kenai Tower 121.30 VHF-AM
Kenai FSS 122.65 VHF-AM
National Air Tanker 123.975 AM

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burning permits are required from April 1 to August 31 for all open burning, except for cooking, warming, or signaling fires, and burning in an approved burn barrel. However, anyone starting a fire, any time of year, is responsible for that fire until it is out. Alaska law mandates that the ground must be cleared around a fire and a person must not leave the fire before it is extinguished. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requires that a permit be obtained for burning any substance causing black smoke, toxic gases, or odors which affect nearby persons, as well as land clearing over 40 acres.

Permits are free of charge and may be obtained using the website: http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/

Permits can also be obtained by contacting on of the following agencies:

Division of Forestry	262-4200 MP 92.5 Sterling Hwy
City of Soldotna	262-4792
City of Kenai	283-7666
Nikiski/North Kenai	776-6401
Anchor Point FD,	235-6700
City of Homer,	235-3155
City of Seward,	224-3445
City of Kodiak	486-8040

Forestry burn permits may be issued without site inspection for burning one pile of debris of less than 10' x 10' and mown lawn burning less than



one acre. These permits may be picked up over the counter or from the DOF web site:www.forestry.alaska.gov/burn/. They may be issued for 3 seasons and the permittee is required to call-in to activate the permit on the day they plan to burn during fire season. Standard fire safety procedures are included in the terms of the permit including a firebreak, someone

in attendance with tools and water, and no burning during windy periods. The permit does not authorize burning materials that put off black smoke or toxic gases. The permittee must have the permit in their possession while burning. Larger burning operations require a site inspection before a permit can be issued.

Permits may be suspended during periods of high fire danger. Permittees will be notified of the closure when they call-in to activate the permit. During a suspension, campfires and approved burn barrels are allowed. When fire danger is extreme, Forestry may prohibit the lighting of all fires by way of a burn ban issued by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

Permittees must call-in each day they are burning (prior to ignition) to check on the status of suspensions and record the location of the burn. Most of the fires in the Kenai-Kodiak Area that occur in May, June, and July are caused by human activity. It is vital that individuals are aware of the weather conditions affecting the fire danger and are fully prepared before lighting a fire.

A Notice of Violation (NOV) will be issued if there is a violation of the Alaska Statutes: 41.15.050 to 41.15.150. The NOV may be a written warning, but a prevention officer must be contacted if one of the following

circumstances indicates a criminal complaint maybe necessary: 1) the person is a previous offender of a burning statute or regulation. 2) The fire has escaped the landowner's property to any degree and/or our office has spent or will spend 8 or more actual hours for the suppression and mopup of the fire. 3) The violator refuses to provide the information necessary to complete a burn permit or refuses to correct a violation. 4) The violation involves malicious or wanton setting of fires – a felony, AS 41.15.150. The State will seek suppression cost recovery where conclusive evidence exists of a violation of the Alaska Statutes.



Tracy Avenue 2005

Extensive Beetle-killed trees and grass present a safety concern for fast moving fires and limited mobility with jack-strawed dead and down trees. The dead spruce presents a high risk from falling snags. **Know your escape routes and safety zones.**

Staffing/Extended Staffing

Staffing is based on the Planning Level and usually decided by the local FMO. Extended staffing beyond the normal work day will be decided daily during fire season by the FMO or Duty Officer. It is based on factors influenced by weather indices, fire activity locally and across the region Extended staffing is usually announced by 16:00 each day.



Duty officer

FMO will be the primary duty officer and will handle DO responsibilities during normal office hours or whenever he is on duty.

The schedule for duty officer rotation is posted in the dispatch office and out in the front office. Dispatch will notify the AST of any deviation from the schedule

when it occurs. This message is also posted every evening on the TTY for the regional notification, and announced on the radio at close of business by dispatch. Below are the individuals that will be on the rotation schedule for duty officers and KIDC contacts.

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Bill Hutto	260-4222(wk)	398-4726
Sharon Roesch	262-6424	398-6041
Tom Marok	262-7873	398-8282
KIDC Contact		
Carol Prior	283-3931	398-6892
USFS Dispatcher		440-5180

Meals and Lodging

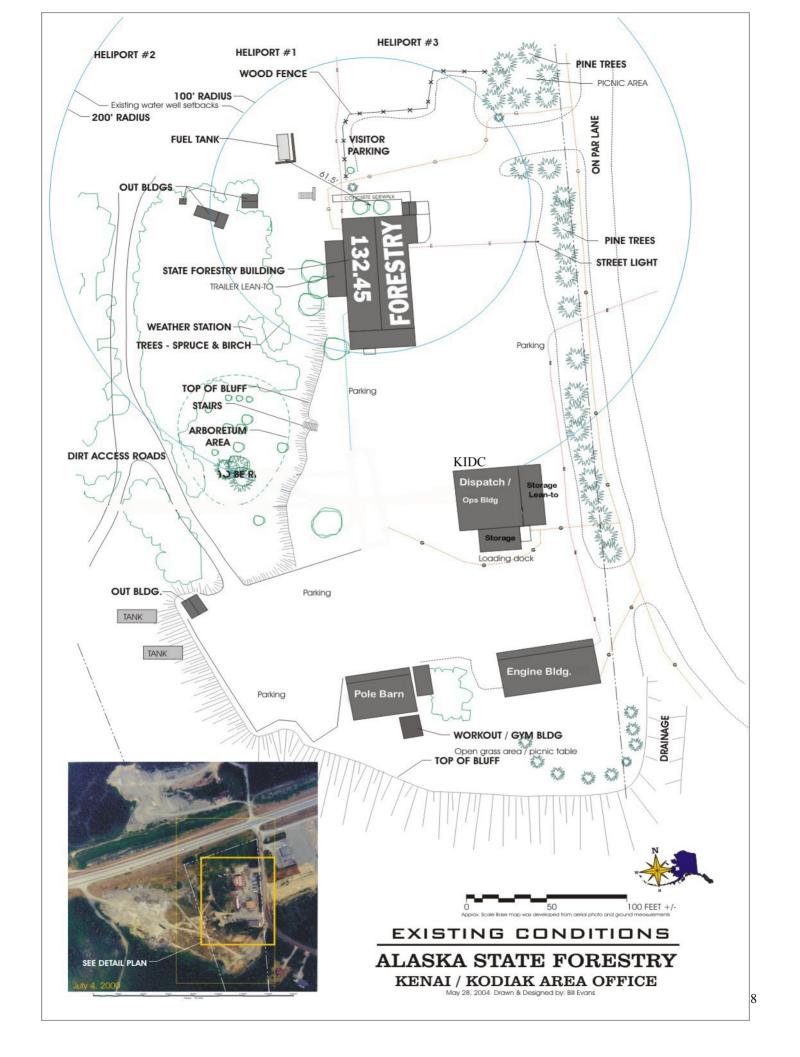
The administration office will arrange lodging for out of area and subsisted personnel with local vendors. Meal coupons will be issued to personnel not on per-diem. Per diem is authorized by the KKAO Area Forester and can be reimbursed to the employee through the Travel Authorization System. Individuals are issued Meal coupons that cannot be transferred to another person. The coupons are valid for only the day and amount shown on the face and the employee should not pay taxes nor receive any change.

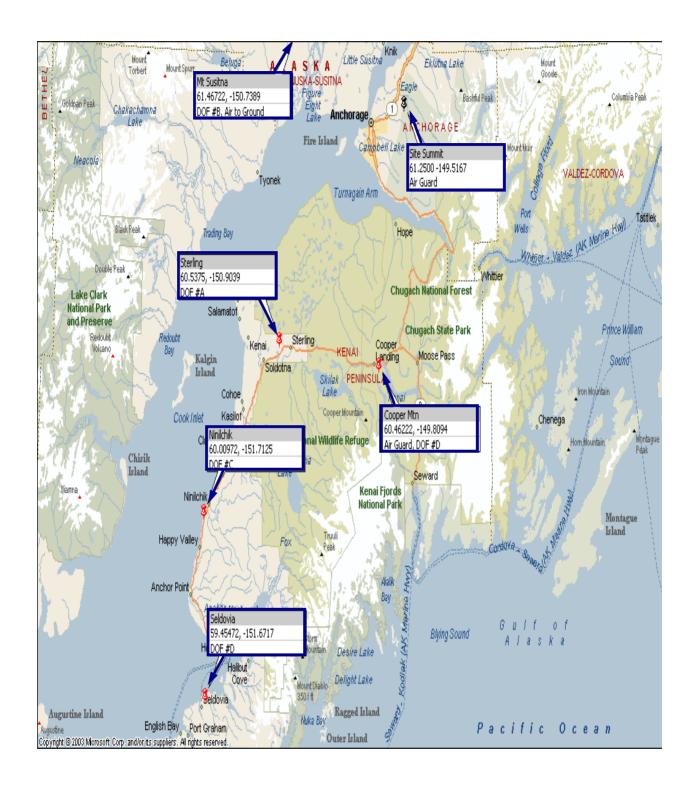
The state will not pay for alcoholic beverages, tips or non-food items. Any charges for these things and any charges in excess of the meal allowance must be paid for by the employee. If you are issued a coupon and you do not use it, please return it to logistics so it can be cancelled as soon as possible. The meal coupon allowances for 2008 are:

Breakfast	\$12.00
Lunch	\$16.00
Dinner	\$32.00

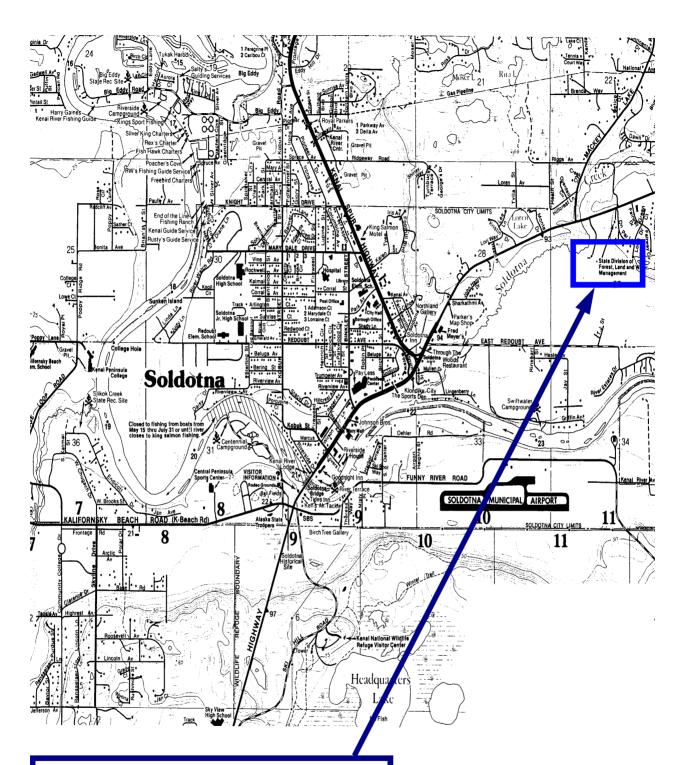
Please advise the Logistics office if you encounter any difficulties or substandard facilities/services from any of the vendors for meals or lodging.



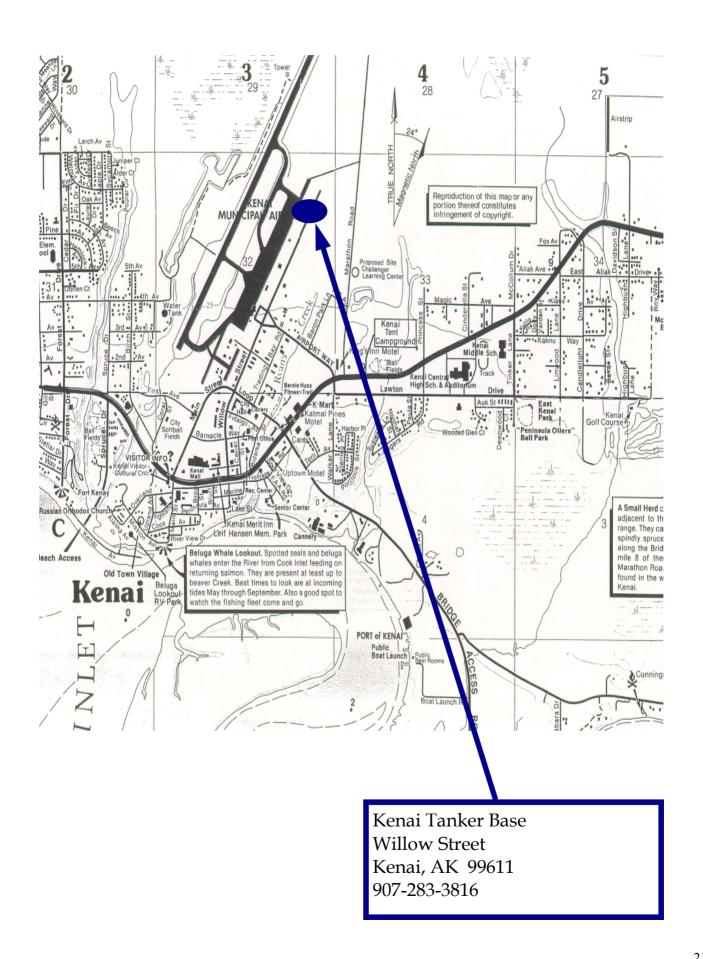


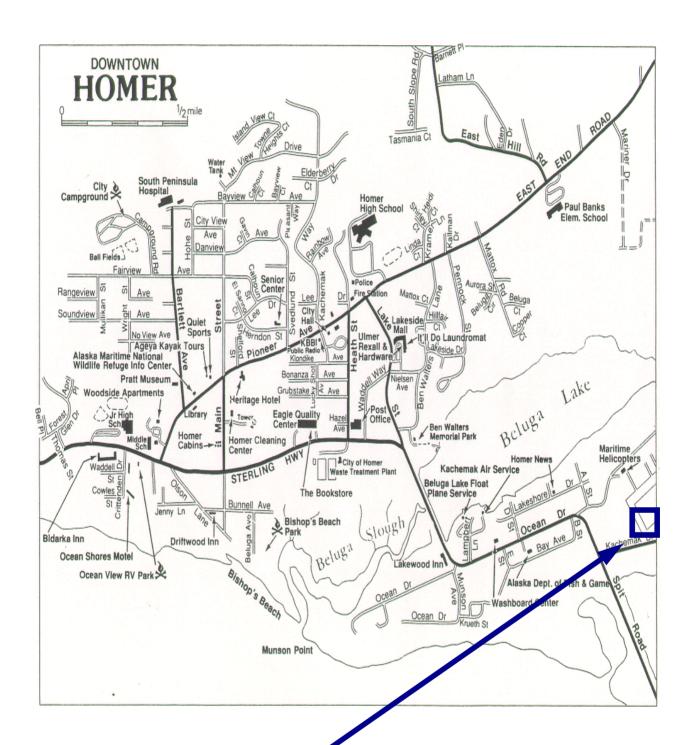


KKAO Repeater Sites



State of Alaska – Division of Forestry 42499 Sterling Highway Soldotna, AK 99669 Mile 92.5 Sterling Highway 907-262-4124





State of Alaska – Division of Forestry Homer Station 2156 Kachemak Drive Homer, AK 99603 907-235-7734

Kenai Kodiak Area Phone List 2009				
NAME	PHONE #	TITLE	STATE CELL	
Adamson, Nick	260-4237	Engine K-62	398-2705	
Aills, Leslie	260-4203	Admin Clerk II		
Anderegg, Dale	260-4280	Helitack Foreman	398-8819	
Baker, Lynn	283-3816	Tanker Base	252-2328	
Bettini, Lois	235-7841	Stewardship/Homer	398-7261	
Campbell, Diane	260-4231	Dispatcher	398-4823	
Finley, Darren	260-4271	Engine K-60		
Hayes, Mike	260-4274	Engine K61	394-2603	
Hippchen, Rusty	260-4240	Maintenance Worker	398-8113	
Hutto, Bill		Assistant FMO	398-4726	
James, Matt		Engine Foreman K62-	398-4716	
Marok, Tom	260-4220	FMO	398-8282	
Moore, LeAna	260-4202	Admin Assistant	398-9787	
Pellegrini, Paul	235-7734	Engine Foreman K-73		
Peterson, Al	260-4214	Stewardship	398-7156	
Prior, Carol	260-4230	Logistics Coordinator	398-6892	
Rinke, Hans	260-4210	Area Forester	398-4732	
Quiner, Patrick	260-4281	Helitack	394-2601	
Roesch, Sharon	260-4260	Fire Prevention Officer	398-6041	
Scales, Steve	260-4270	Suppression Foreman	394-2605	
Short, Torrey	235-7734	Engine K-73-Homer	394-2604	
Thomas, Diana	260-4233	Dispatcher	398-6893	
Weisz, Dan	260-4276	Engine K61	394-2602	
West, Britta		Engine Crewmember		
White, Dan	260-4272	Engine Foreman K-60	398-1330	
Winters, John	260-4212	Operations Forester	398-2359	
Wynn, Josiah	235-7734	Engine K62-Homer	398-2706	

KKAO Phone List

State Troopers	Phone	Federal Cooperators	Phone
Homer	235-3150	KLWC USFS	288-7732
Soldotna	262-4453	Seward USFS	224-3374
EMERGENCY	911	KNWR USFWS	262-7021
State DOT	Phone	Fire Shop USFWS	260-5994
Homer	235-5218		
Soldotna	262-4412	Homer Electric	Phone
		Homer	235-8551
State Forestry	Phone	24 Hour	235-8050
Soldotna	260-4200	Kenai	283-5831
Dispatch	260-4232	24 Hour	262-4836
Fax	260-4205		
Burn Permit Line	260-4269	Enstar	Phone
FIRE Line	260-3473	Soldotna	262-9334
Homer	235-7734		
		FSS	Phone
Police	Phone	Kenai	283-7211/283-3735
Police Kenai	Phone 283-7879/80	Kenai Homer	283-7211/283-3735 235-8550
			•
Kenai	283-7879/80		•
Kenai Homer	283-7879/80 235-3150	Homer	235-8550
Kenai Homer Soldotna	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455	Homer Fuel	235-8550 Phone
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000	Homer Fuel Crowley Fuel	235-8550 Phone 283-4542
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES Kodiak	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792 486-8040	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water Homer Harbor Master	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone 235-3160
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES Kodiak Kenai	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792 486-8040 283-7666	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water Homer Harbor Master	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone 235-3160
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES Kodiak Kenai Airport	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792 486-8040 283-7666 283-7894	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water Homer Harbor Master City Water Works	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone 235-3160 235-3170
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES Kodiak Kenai Airport Homer	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792 486-8040 283-7666 283-7894 235-3155	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water Homer Harbor Master City Water Works DEC	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone 235-3160 235-3170 Phone
Kenai Homer Soldotna Kodiak DIV COM DIV COM Fire Departments CES Kodiak Kenai Airport Homer Nikiski	283-7879/80 235-3150 262-4455 486-8000 Phone 262-7584 Phone 262-4792 486-8040 283-7666 283-7894 235-3155 283-4388/776-8400	Fuel Crowley Fuel Maritime Fuel Pathfinder Aviation Water Homer Harbor Master City Water Works DEC	235-8550 Phone 283-4542 235-7771 226-2800 Phone 235-3160 235-3170 Phone 260-3063

KKAO Vehicle List

		Vehicle Description		Assigned To:
Suppre	ession			
K-30	V0579	1987 Ford 4X4 2 ton diesel	Т3	Soldotna IA
K-31	V28265	1987 Ford 4x4 2 ton diesel	Т3	Soldotna IA
K-60	V33297	1999 Ford 4X4 1 ¼ ton diesel	T6	Soldotna IA
K-61	V33220	1999 Ford 4X4 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ton diesel	T6	Soldotna IA
K-62	V33208	1999 Ford 4X4 1 ¼ ton diesel	T6	Homer IA
K-70	V35179	2004 Ford 4X4 ¾ ton ext cab p/u	T7	FMO
K-71	V33513	2000 Dodge 4X4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ton ext cab p/u	T7	Prevention
K-72	V7438	1989 Ford 4X4 ¾ ton p/u	T7	Prevention
K-73	V34367	2002 Ford 4X4 ¾ ton crew cab p/u	T7	Homer IA
K-74	V8244	1986 Chevy 4X4 1 ton utility bed		Suppression
Helico	Helicop ter ERA Bell 212 500EH			250 gal. Bambi Bkt.
Fire Su	pport			
K-03	V36407	2007 Ford F-350 4x4 stakebed		Warehouse
K-04	V7381	7381 1990 ford 4X2 3/4 ton crew cab		Fire Support
K-05	V30062	1981 Chevy X-cab PU		Kenai Retardant Site
K-09	V33451	1998 Chevy Sedan		Maintenance
K-11	1 V30268 1992 Chevy Astro Van		Firewise	
K-12	V 30267	Chevy Astro Van		
K-14	V1340	1989 Chev. Orange P/U		Homer Support
K-15	V30217	Ford F-250 P/U		Helitack
K-16	V32354	V32354 1996 Chevy 4X4 3/4 ton ext cab p/u		Prevention
Timbe				
K-01	V34217	2003 Ford Expedition		Timber
K-02	V31481	1994 Ford 4x4 3/4 ton ext cab p/u		FPA,Timber
	laneous			
ATV	2	ATV Trailers/30945/30946		